As regards North-East, the Master Plans prepared by Brahmaputra Board have emphasized that the flood problem in the Brahmaputra Valley can be solved satisfactorily and enduringly only after construction of large storage dams in the basin and that too in the upper part of the basin. Keeping this in view, investigations of two most promising project namely the Siang Dihang Dam Project and the Subansiri Dam Projects were pursued and project reports were prepared by the Brahmaputra Board. These projects which are now to be taken up in three stages each have since been transferred to National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) for detailed investigation and implementation. Detailed Project Report for another major project namely Tipaimukh Multipurpose Project on river Barak has also been prepared which will inter alia have flood control benefits in the Barak Valley. The Government of India also approved implementation of Pagladiya Multipurpose of Project in Assam, which has flood control as a major benefit. In addition to the above, the Government of India has also been providing Central assistance to the State Governments to take up critical anti erosion/flood management works.

(c) Based on various studies conducted, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 links for preparing Feasibility Reports (FRs). NWDA has completed feasibility reports for 14 links under Peninsular Development Component and two links under Himalyan Rivers Development Component. The storages envisaged in the interlinking of rivers proposals of NWDA under National perspective Plan, by virtue of their capacities and diversion of flood water through link canals, will inter-alia provide flood modernisation benefits to some extent in the respective basins.

Excess Nitrate in Water

226. SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report by the Central Ground Water Board has revealed nitrate concentration in excess of the admissible limit in water in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise;

(c) whether consumption of such contaminated water causes cancer or damages the nervous system;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the action initiated to provide safe water in the affected areas, with allocation of funds for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Nitrate content in excess of the desirable limit of 45 mg/l from ground water sources has been reported by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in localized pockets in various parts of the country. State-wise details of districts parts of which are affected by excess nitrate in ground water are given in the Statement *(See below)*.

(c) and (d) As per WHO, the wight of evidence is strongly against a positive correlation between nitrate exposures in humans and the risk of cancer. A conclusive evidence is yet to be established as regards the relationship between nitrite/nitrate and neurological manifestations.

(e) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the reposibility of the concerned State Governments to formulate schems to provide people with contamination free water. However, CGWB monitors ground water quality periodically to map the changes in it and apprises the State Governments of the same taking necessary remedial measures. It has also drilled exploratory wells tapping contamination free aquifer zones and has handed over these wells to the State Governments, free of cost, for utilisation.

Department of Drinking Water Supply, under the Ministry of Rural Development, is also rendering financial and technicial asistance to the States for tackling water quality problems in rural areas through a Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). 15% of ARWSP funds have been exclusively earmarked for Sub Mission projects for tackling water quality problems. With effect from 01.04.1998, powers to sanction Sub Mission projects have been delegated to States. Funds amounting to Rs. 1899.64 crores, Rs. 1646.29 crores and Rs.2017.88 crores were released under ARWSP (includign normal ARWSP, Desert Development Programme and Natural Calamities) by the Department of Drinking Water Supply during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

Statement

State-Wise Details of Districts Parts of Which are Affected by Excess Nitrate in Ground Water

Sl. No	Name of the State/UT	Name of the districts affected by excess Nitrate (*more than 45 mg/l*)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Prakasam, Khammam, Nellore, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Guntur, Kurnool, Karimnagar, Mahaboobnagar, Vijayawada
2.	Assam	Lakhimpur
3.	Bihar	Gaya, Patna, Nalanda,Nawada, Bhagalpur, Banka
4.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
5.	Delhi	West, South-west
6.	Gujarat	Amreli, Banaskantha, Bhavnagar, Gandhinagar, Jamnagar, Junagarh Kachchh, Mahesana
7.	Haryana	Ambala, Bhiwani, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Hissar, Jind, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Mahendergarh, Rohtak, Sonepat, Sirsa
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Una
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Kathua
10.	Jharkhand	Palamu, Sahebganj
11.	Karnataka	Bijapur, Bangaiore, Balgaum, Bellary, Chitradurga, Dharwar, Gulbarga, Hassan, Kolar, Mandya, Raichur, Shimoga
12.	Kerala	Idukki, Kottayam, Palghat,Pathanamthitta, Mallapuram
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhind, Bhopal, Chhindwara, Dhar, Dewas, Gwalior, Indore, Khandwa, Mandsaur, Morena, Shivpuri, Sehore, Ujjain
14.	Maharashtra	Ahmednagar, Amravati, Akola, Aurangabad, Bhandara, Beed, Buldana, Chandarpur,

1	2	3
		Gadchiroli, Dhule, Jalgaon, Jalna,Kolhapur, Latur, Nagpur, Nanded, Osmanabad, Pune, Sangli, Satara, Sholapur, Thane, Wardha
15.	Orissa	Aungul,Baragarh, Bolangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Malkangiri, Nawapara, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Sunoargarh
16.	Punjab	Bhatinda, Faridkot,Ferozepur, patiala, Sangrur
17.	Rajasthan	Ajmer, Alwar, Bhartpur, Bikaner, Bundi, Churu, Dholpur, Ganganagar, jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Sawai Madhopur, Udaipur
18.	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore, Periyar, Salem, NA Ambedkar nagar, T. Kottabomman, Dindigul-Anna, V.R. Padayachi
19.	Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh, Agra,Banda, Etawah, Ghaziabad, Hamirpur, Jaunpur, Jhans, Kanpur, Mainpuri, Mathura, Pilibhit
20.	Uttaranchal	Nainital
21.	West Bengal	Uttar Dinajpur, Maldha, Birbhum, Murshidabad, Nadia, Bankura, Purulia, Howrah, Medinipur
22.	U.T. of Chndigarh	Chandigarh

Maintaining level of underground water

227. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'NCR KE SAAT BLOCKON KA BHUMIGAT JAL KHATARNAK SATAR PAR', appeared in the media;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon;